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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 4431
INFO RUEHGB/AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD 6156
RUEHLB/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT 2977
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO 3906
RUEHDM/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS 4064
RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 1526
RUEHJM/AMCONSUL JERUSALEM 5347
RUEHTRO/AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI 0034
RUEHTU/AMEMBASSY TUNIS 1043
RUCPDOC/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC
RUEAHLC/DEPT OF HOMELAND SECURITY WASHDC
RHMCSSU/FAA NATIONAL HQ WASHINGTON DC

UNCLAS AMMAN 000391

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/ELA AND EEB

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAIR ECON JO I2

SUBJECT: ROYAL JORDANIAN CONFIRMS SOME FLIGHT PATTERNS AVOID ISRAEL
AT BEHEST OF ARAB COUNTRIES

(SBU) A Jordanian Member of Parliament was quoted in the local press saying that he had observed that national carrier Royal Jordanian (RJ) flights to Europe and North Africa often circumvented Israeli airspace. He added that RJ pilots told him that it was because Israel often changed the flight routes, which he viewed as an infringement of negotiated bilateral aviation agreements. Iman Rihani, Director of Public Relations at RJ, confirmed to Emboffs that RJ flights from Tunisia and Libya do indeed by-pass Israeli airspace. She explained that this was because Tunisian and Libyan officials were reluctant to file flight plans that included Israel. She added that when RJ flies from Jordan to those countries it does fly over Israel since the Jordanian government does not have similar concerns.

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